

Overview

The second City of Atlanta Transportation and Circulation Study community forum was held November 17, 2004, at the Agape Community Center. Thirty community members and City staff members attended the event. The goals of the community workshop were to:

1. Provide an update on the project status
2. Review existing conditions
3. Review draft recommendations
4. Provide an opportunity for questions and answers
5. Gather input regarding draft recommendations

The public was notified of the community forum in several ways, including a press release, an e-mail blast, and fliers. In addition, the City's web site contained information about the study and the public meeting.

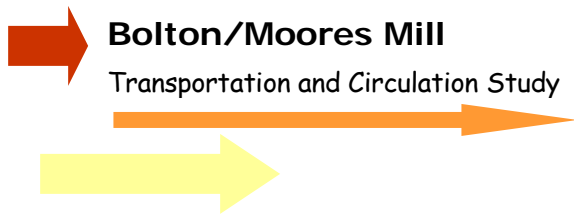
City of Atlanta Urban Planner and Project Director Jia Li welcomed meeting participants. Project Manager Maureen Gresham detailed the study purpose and planning process with a PowerPoint presentation.

Handouts included an agenda, a comment booklet, and a meeting evaluation form.

Overview

Ms. Gresham provided an overview of the project status by outlining completed tasks, as noted below.

1. Engaged the community (will continue)
 - Identified Issues/Opportunities
 - Advisory Committee photo assignment
 - Kickoff event
 - Identified Origins/Destinations
 - Kickoff event



Community Workshop Meeting Overview and Findings

2. Collected existing conditions data regarding the transportation network, planned improvements, and circulation patterns
3. Analyzed existing conditions, including truck and heavy vehicle impact/routing, potential project constraints, multi-mobility needs, and public/private investment needs
4. Developed draft recommendations

Ms. Gresham further highlighted results from the first kickoff meeting, as noted below.

Biggest Issues

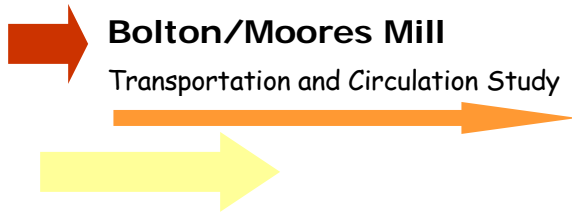
- Truck traffic, speed, and volume
- Existing infrastructure
- Intersections

Desired Transportation Changes (in order)

- Sidewalks
- Reroute truck traffic
- Improve roadways
- Improve traffic control (i.e., intersections)
- Bicycle facilities
- Traffic calming
- Transit

Funding Options

- Private
- Local
- Federal

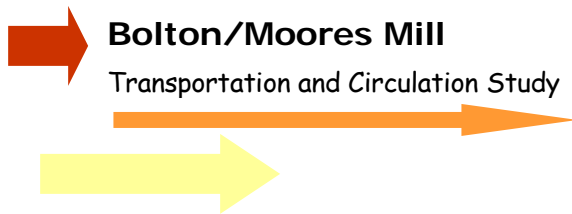


Ms. Gresham noted that the next steps include finalizing recommendations and developing a final plan that includes a five-year action schedule and long-term recommendations. She further noted that the final plan would be presented December 16, 2004. The location and time are yet to be determined.

Dan Dobry provided an overview of existing conditions, as detailed below.

Transportation Network

- Roadway Network
 - Major corridors include:
 - Marietta Boulevard and James Jackson Parkway: Arterials
 - Bolton Road: Major Collector
 - Marietta Road and Hollywood Road: Minor Collectors
 - Substandard roadways include:
 - Bolton Road
 - Marietta Boulevard north of Bolton Road
 - Hollywood Road near Bolton Road
- Alternate Transportation Modes
 - Sidewalks are noticeably missing on Bolton Road and Marietta Boulevard
 - PATH – Existing trail from Marietta Road to Marietta Boulevard
 - MARTA service along Bolton Road, Marietta Boulevard, Peyton Road, Hollywood Road, Marietta Road, Coronet Street, and Bolton Drive (Route Numbers: 60, 48, and 2)
- Planned Improvements
 - PATH trail network



Bolton/Moores Mill

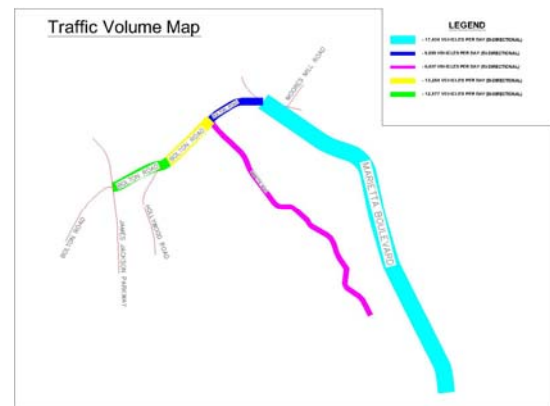
Transportation and Circulation Study

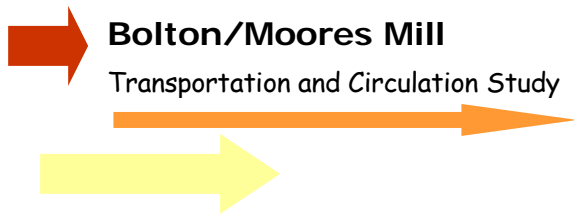
Community Workshop Meeting Overview and Findings

- Sidewalk/resurfacing project on Bolton Road between James Jackson Parkway and Marietta Boulevard
- Streetscaping project to follow/accompany sidewalk project

Circulation Patterns

- Heavy Vehicle
 - 16 to 19 percent of the average daily traffic (ADT) is heavy vehicle/truck traffic
 - Primary paths:
 - I-285 to/through Marietta Boulevard
 - I-285 to Norfolk Southern Intermodal entrance on Marietta Road
 - Major generators include:
 - Norfolk Intermodal
 - CSX Rail Station
 - LaFarge Industries
 - Fulton County Landfill
 - Passenger vehicle traffic
 - A.M. peak traffic flow primarily in the eastbound direction
 - P.M. peak traffic flow primarily in the westbound direction
 - ADT ranges from:
 - 8,900 vehicles per day (vpd) to 13,500 vpd on Bolton Road
 - 6,400 vpd on Marietta Road
 - Roadway Levels of Service (LOS) – currently operating at a LOS E throughout study area





Mr. Dobry also provided a review of draft recommendations, as noted below.

Roadway Upgrades

- Improve roadway surface along Bolton Road
- Implement a new typical section along Bolton Road
- Construct more visible striping and signage along Marietta Road and Marietta Boulevard
- Additional recommendations incorporated into new heavy vehicle routing alternatives

Sidewalk Improvements

- Bolton Road from James Jackson Parkway to Marietta Boulevard (planned)
- Marietta Boulevard

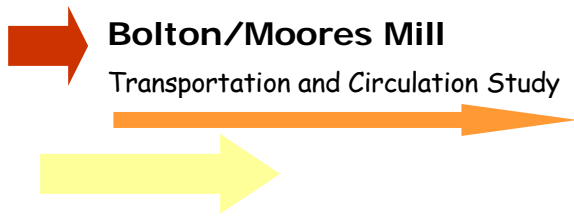
Traffic-calming Features

- Readdress existing speed humps to make them MUTCD-compliant
- Speed hump and roundabout implementation on Marietta Road
- Incorporate bulb-outs on Bolton Road typical street section

Intersection Improvements

Objectives

- Reduce number of approaches
- Simplify signal phasing
- Realign obtuse roadway approaches
- Improve intersection illumination
- Upgrade pedestrian crossings



Recommended Intersections for Improvement

- Marietta Boulevard at Bolton Road
- Bolton Road at Hollywood Road

Bolton Road/Marietta Boulevard Concept 1

- Creates a perpendicular intersection
- Reduces lanes from six to four
- Removes Adams Lane from intersection
- Extends Moores Mill to Marietta Boulevard

Benefits

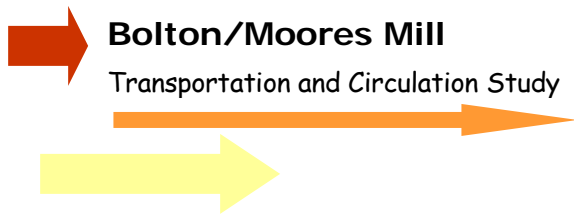
- Improves safety
- Improves traffic flow
- Creates new entry for Adams Road
- Provides better roadway connectivity (Moores Mill extension)

Challenges

- Reduces lane capacity
- Requires right-of-way purchase
- Eliminates access to businesses on Bolton Road

Bolton Road/Marietta Boulevard Concept 2

- Creates a left-turn lane on Bolton Road at Moores Mill Road
- Removes Adams Road from intersection
- Creates a dual left-turn lane on Marietta Boulevard



Benefits

- Improves safety
- Improves traffic flow
- Creates new entry for Adams Road

Challenges

- Reduces lane capacity
- Requires right-of-way purchase
- Does not improve roadway connectivity

Bolton Road/Hollywood Road Concept 1

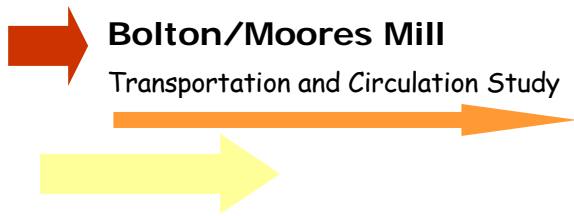
- Eliminates through movement on Hollywood Road
- Bolton Road remains a through movement
- Hollywood Road has a new realignment to Bolton Road

Benefits

- Improves intersection safety
- Discourages truck use of Hollywood Road
- Opportunity for gateway landscaping

Challenges

- Cost prohibitive (new road construction, traffic signal)
- Long-term solution
- Requires residential traffic rerouting



Community Workshop Meeting Overview and Findings

- Requires right-of-way purchase
- Does not improve roadway connectivity

Bolton Road/Hollywood Road Concept 2

- Eliminates through movement on Bolton Road
- Hollywood Road remains a through movement
- Requires two 90-degree turning movements (on Bolton Road)

Benefits

- Eliminates skewed intersection approach
- Discourages use of Bolton Road by truck traffic
- Opportunity for gateway landscaping

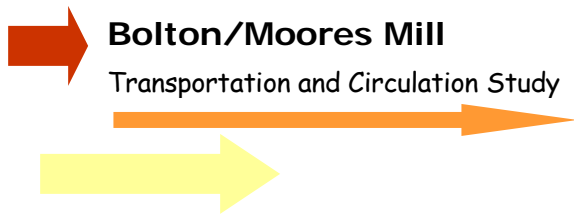
Challenges

- Cost prohibitive (new road, traffic signal construction)
- Long-term solution
- Possible increase in congestion
- Requires purchase of right-of-way
- Does not increase roadway connectivity

Truck Routing Options

Objectives

- Divert truck traffic from residential roads
- Increase safety
- Identify both long-term and short-term solutions



Short-Term Strategies

- Eliminate left-turn movements
- Install physical barrier
- Prohibit through truck trips

Issues

- Extensive enforcement required
- Legal considerations
- Violates design standards
- Potential traffic volume rerouting through residential areas

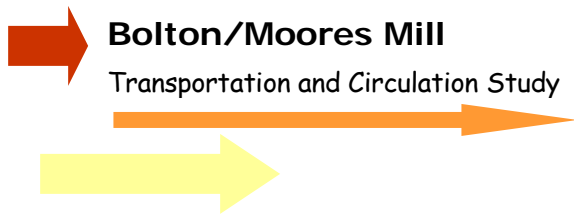
Option 1

Benefits

- Diverts truck traffic from Bolton Road
- Reduces vehicle congestion
- Increases safety in residential areas

Challenges

- Cost prohibitive (new road construction)
- Long term
- Introduces truck traffic to neighboring residential areas
- Requires purchase of railroad right-of-way



Option 2

Benefits

- Diverts truck traffic from Marietta Road
- Reduces vehicle congestion
- Increases safety in residential areas
- Short term
- Low investment

Challenges

- Enforcement
- Nothing to keep traffic off Bolton Road
- Introduces additional truck traffic to Marietta Boulevard

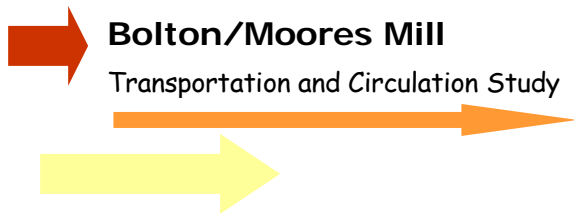
Option 3

Benefits

- Diverts truck traffic from Bolton Road
- Reduces vehicle congestion
- Increases safety in residential areas

Challenges

- Cost prohibitive (new road construction)
- Long term
- Introduces truck traffic to neighboring residential areas
- Potential traffic congestion at Hollywood Road and James Jackson Parkway



Option 4

Benefits

- Diverts truck traffic from Bolton Road
- Reduces vehicle congestion
- Increases safety in residential areas
- Provides good access interchange at I-285

Challenges

- Cost prohibitive (new road construction)
- Long term
- Introduces truck traffic to neighboring residential areas
- Potential traffic congestion at Hollywood Road, James Jackson Parkway, and Bankhead Highway

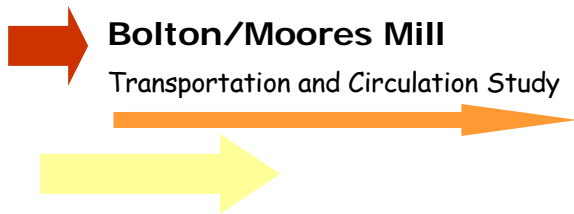
Option 5

Benefits

- Diverts truck traffic from Bolton Road
- Reduces vehicle congestion
- Increases safety in residential areas
- 5b possible in the short term, less costly option

Challenges

- Cost prohibitive (new road construction)
- Long term



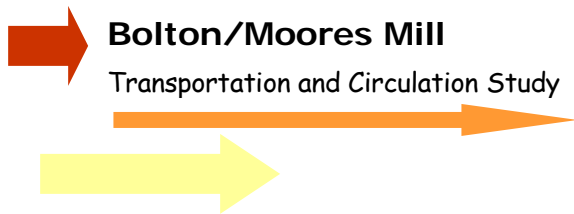
- Introduces truck traffic to neighboring residential areas near Hollywood Road (adds new intersection)
- Requires purchase of railroad right-of-way
- Requires construction of bridge over rail yard

Findings

A question/answer session, comment booklet, and meeting evaluation card were used to gather input from meeting participants. The following details the comments received.

Question/Answer

- Q: Do you know how much truck traffic actually goes from Bolton Road to Marietta Road?
- A: We believe that most trucks on Bolton Road also travel on Marietta Road.
- Q: Could we completely prohibit trucks from Marietta Road? Where are they headed?
- A: Given our understanding of the origin/destination of truck trips, we will have to address connections to I-285 north and I-285 south.
- Q: Where would trucks go if Marietta Road were disconnected?
- A: Marietta Boulevard, a local street (Spinks Street), and cut-throughs off Perry Boulevard. (Perry Boulevard also has severe geometric deficiencies – many trucks are to/from the two large truck terminals.)
- Q: Did you count traffic on Hollywood Road?
- A: No.
- Q: Would the N/S truck terminal have to be relocated if trucks were prohibited on Marietta Road?
- A: This is yet to be determined.



Q: Do the recommendations take into account planned developments?

A: Yes.

General Comments

Comment: Closing Hollywood Road is not a good idea. Consider eliminating turn from Bolton Road to Hollywood Road. Replace with turn at Main Street/Bolton Road.

Comment: Noticed increase in truck traffic within last year, particularly on Bolton Road.

Response: Train freight has increased within last year. May be related.

Response: Deteriorating pavement condition is contributing to truck noise and vibration.

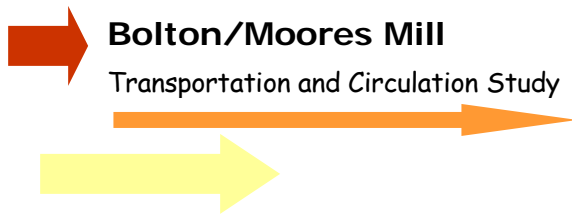
Comment Booklet

The comment booklet included questions directed at gathering input regarding issues and opportunities of the draft recommendations presented. The results of the 16 comment cards returned are summarized below. Numbers in parentheses indicate more than one response.

Bolton Road/Marietta Boulevard Concept 1

Which benefit do you think is most important?

- The improvement of traffic flow (6)
- Oppose this concept
- Resulting four-way intersection with new Adams Road entrance and opportunity to landscape H₂O facility boundaries to neighborhood.
- This four-way, 90-degree intersection is the best plan. Eliminate Adams Road connectivity. Improve traffic from Bolton to Moores Mill.



Which challenge do you think is most critical?

- The funding for right-of-way purchase (4)
- Eliminating business access on Bolton
- Can't get land from both Clayton sites

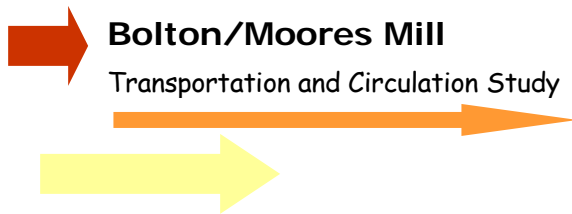
Do you think there is a benefit/challenge being overlooked?

- Brings truck traffic behind Adams Crossing and we become an island surrounded by traffic – no good!
- Get rid of dog leg of Bolton/Defoors. Keep Bolton where it is. Move Adams, thus four-point intersection.
- Creating heavy landscape areas along H₂O property boundaries to neighborhoods – benefits are visual and may help reduce any odors.
- We like this one much better. Ninety-degree turns are safer, also, wider roads.
- The Moores Mill extension is not critical at this point. Truck traffic from Bolton either turns left or right onto Marietta Boulevard. Make it so there is a dedicated left, a dedicated through to Moores/Bolton (US Gas), and a dedicated right to Marietta. Three lanes eastbound instead of two.

Bolton Road/Marietta Boulevard Concept 2

Which benefit do you think is most important?

- Improves traffic flow (4)
- Creates new entry for Adams (2)
- Oppose

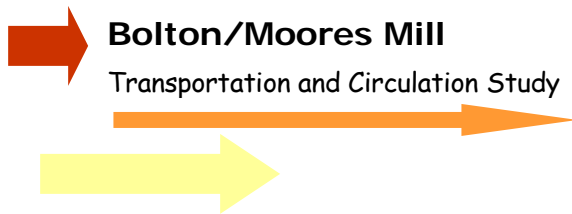


Which challenge is most critical?

- Requires right-of-way purchase (4)
- Reduces capacity (2)
- Requires right-of-way purchase – but go for it!
- Not sure of keeping five-way (six-way) intersection when can have four-way, 90-degree intersection areas

Do you think there is a benefit/challenge being overlooked?

- This idea looks most economic, but other than tinkering would seem to offer few real solutions.
- Much better for residential already in place. Less impact to existing intersection. Less land to acquire and rework.
- I agree with Keith that westbound Bolton traffic should not turn left onto Hollywood and be forced up Bolton to access the neighborhood. No direct access via Hollywood.
- Get rid of dog leg Bolton/Defoors. Trade for through access through shopping center. This is a good one.
- We like the cut-through at the shopping centers – it's missing on this concept.
- Still a bad left turn from Bolton Road to Marietta Boulevard (heading toward river and I-285).
- Creating heavy landscaping areas long H₂O property boundaries to neighborhoods – benefits are visual and may help reduce odors.
- This plan isn't as good.



Bolton Road/Hollywood Road Concept 1

Which benefit do you think is most important?

- Discourages truck use (4)
- None – safety not an issue. Why discuss trucks on Hollywood?
- I would have to use this intersection before I could comment
- Not familiar enough with this intersection

Which challenge is most critical?

- Cost (3)
- Cul-de-sac of Hollywood will be tough

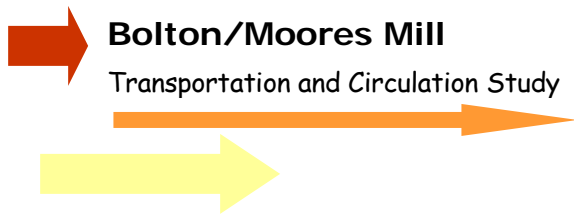
Do you think there is a benefit/challenge being overlooked? Please explain in the space provided below.

- Eliminate left turn from Bolton west onto Hollywood. Straighten Bolton east by removing westbound turn lane.
- Remove turn lane from Hollywood to Bolton. Better flow in both directions. Use Main Street as main throughway. Main Street 60 feet wide at Hollywood.
- Instead of blocking traffic and putting in a cul-de-sac, stop people heading westbound on Bolton from turning left onto Hollywood. Then make it so traveling east on Bolton does not require making a weird left turn.

Bolton Road/Hollywood Road Concept 2

Which benefit do you think is most important?

- Discourages use of Bolton Road by truck traffic (2)
- Eliminates skewed intersection (2)
- Not familiar enough with this intersection



- Not practical
- Opportunity for gateway landscaping

Which challenge is most critical?

- Cost
- Doesn't increase roadway connectivity
- Cul-de-sac'ing Bolton Road is going to be tough

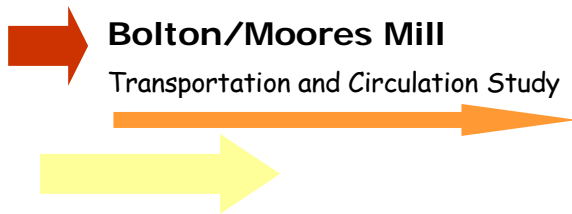
Do you think there is a benefit/challenge being overlooked? Please explain in the space provided below.

- Trucks have no business using Bolton Road (this far from direct access to commercial sites). The I-285 exit to Bolton should be access only. There are other much more suitable roads and intersections for commercial access.
- Modify plan by not doing new road, rerouting left-turn traffic onto Main Street, plus its existing roads, so not as much cost.
- Move main traffic to Main Street. Make them turn. Slow them down.
- I do not like the idea of blocking either road. Just improve the intersection (Y).

Heavy Vehicle Routing Alternate 1

Which benefit do you think is most important?

- Diverting truck traffic (4)
- Increases safety in residential areas
- Seems most logical to getting traffic off of Marietta Boulevard



Which challenge is most critical?

- Cost issues/long-term solution (3)
- Introduces truck traffic to neighboring residential areas
- Requires purchase of railroad right-of-way
- Adding connector, which is very important and a good alternative

Heavy Vehicle Routing Alternate 2

Which benefit do you think is most important?

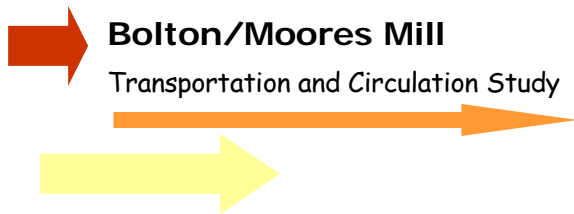
- Short term (2)
- Diverts truck traffic from Marietta Road (2)

Which challenge is most critical?

- Enforcement (2)
- Nothing helps Bolton/Hollywood (2)

Do you think there is a benefit/challenge being overlooked? Please explain in the space provided below.

- This seems to be the easiest, quickest solution. This would help the issue drastically.
- Removing traffic flow from Marietta Road would divert traffic from Bolton.
- This would greatly reduce the heavy truck traffic through a residential area. This would also reduce traffic on Bolton Road. This is the most important and cost-effective way to correct the problem.
- This is too short term.



Heavy Vehicle Routing Alternate 3

Which benefit do you think is most important?

- Diverts truck traffic (4)
- Impossible – no land at J.J. and Bolton for the wide left turn

Which challenge is most critical?

- Cost (2)
- Introduces truck traffic to neighboring residential areas (2)
- There is a large mixed-use development coming there
- Potential traffic congestion at Hollywood and James Jackson Parkway – must divert from Hollywood

Do you think there is a benefit/challenge being overlooked? Please explain in the space provided below.

- Best plan that I see. Try to direct more traffic to Marietta Boulevard and the use of the South Atlanta Road/I-285 interchange.

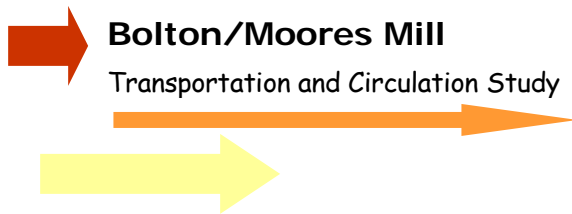
Heavy Vehicle Routing Alternate 4

Which benefit do you think is most important?

- Diverts truck traffic from Bolton Road (2)
- Provides good access to I-285

Which challenge is most critical?

- Introduces truck traffic to neighboring residential areas (2)
- Cost
- Potential traffic congestion at Hollywood Road, James Jackson Parkway, and Bankhead Highway



Heavy Vehicle Routing Alternates 5a and 5b

Which benefit do you think is most important?

- Diverts traffic (2)
- 5a – New right-of-way solves problem
- 5b possible short term, less costly option – Good one!

Which challenge is most critical?

- Cost of bridge over tracks and right-of-way acquisition (2)
- Introduces truck traffic to neighboring areas (2)
- Bridge over rail yard
- Small road that is new
- This concept deposits truck traffic onto Marietta Road by residential areas

General Comments

Do you think there is an intersection improvement recommendation missing?

- I-285/Atlanta Road should be improved.
- Traffic light at Carroll Drive and Marietta Road.
- Utilize the Main Street connection between Bolton and Hollywood to slow and redirect traffic. The space is there and it is 90 percent commercial.

Do you think there is a truck route being overlooked? If so, please indicate the route you think should be used for heavy vehicles, and why, in the space below.

- There already exists three perfectly suitable truck routes to and from I-285: I-20/Atlanta Road; S. Cobb Drive; and Marietta Boulevard. If other roads were strictly enforced as “access only” I believe the problem could be alleviated considerably without great expense.



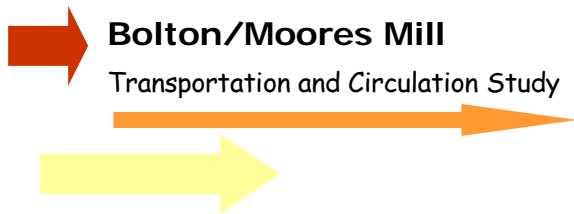
Bolton/Moores Mill

Transportation and Circulation Study



Community Workshop Meeting Overview and Findings

- Introduce lights and stop signs on Bolton Road and Marietta Road.
- Enforce weight restriction on bridge over marshalling yards at Marietta Road/Carroll Drive.
- Make improvements to Marietta Boulevard and provide access to truck yards (Route No. 2 and 5b) eliminate.
- See what we can do to get them to James Jackson.
- Truck traffic on Marietta Road (road is dangerous for trucks) and Marietta Road can develop into a true residential area then make improvements to Perry Boulevard so a one-way loop could happen.
- 5b – Don't need other portion – red left turn onto Bolton – need to look at increase – Carroll.
- Speed bumps have been listed in the slides but have not been talked about. Speed bumps on both Bolton Road and Marietta Road would begin to divert trucks from using both.
- I'm ignoring alternatives and recommending the following:
 - Truck traffic northbound – via Marietta Boulevard
 - Truck traffic westbound – south to Bankhead then west to I-285
 - Truck traffic southbound – Marietta Boulevard
 - Truck traffic eastbound ? is this needed
 - No use of Bolton for trucks
- Of the five alternatives, Alternate 3 is my favorite. Any heavy vehicle traffic heading northeast on I-285 would take Marietta Boulevard/Atlanta Road and traffic going southwest would take Perry.
- How important of an issue is this within the funds allocated for street and traffic improvement? What priority do these ideas hold?



Bolton/Moores Mill

Transportation and Circulation Study

Community Workshop Meeting Overview and Findings

- Road pavement improvement is necessary. Completely rebuilding the road bed and getting rid of the bumps is necessary. I don't care about sidewalks as much as intersections and road improvements. I thank any money that can be found to purchase rights-of-way, especially at Bolton and Marietta Boulevard.

Meeting Evaluation

The meeting evaluation survey included questions directed at identifying methods to improve future meetings. Six evaluations were returned. The results are summarized below, with the numbers in parentheses indicating more than one response.

1. How would you rate this meeting overall?

Very Good (3)

Good (1)

Adequate (0)

Bad (0)

Very Bad (0)

2. What did you like most about the meeting?

- Overview
- I'm new to the area and learned about a lot of problems of which I was not aware
- Comment that was made
- Good tag-team tactics to share info and keep guests involved
- Visual aids very helpful
- Logical layout of options and maps

3. In what areas do you feel the meeting could have been improved?

- The geometric concepts #1 and #2 were hard to understand
- Really don't know
- Make recommendations based on your professional experience that have worked for other communities

4. Do you have an understanding of the benefits and issues of the proposed recommendations?

a. Yes (6)

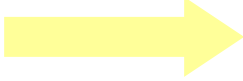
b. No Opinion (1)

c. No (0)



Bolton/Moores Mill

Transportation and Circulation Study



Community Workshop Meeting Overview and Findings

5. Regarding what you have learned, how would you rate the following statements? (1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree)

a. I learned new information:

Strongly agree (7)

Agree (0)

Neither agree nor disagree (0)

Disagree (0)

Strongly disagree (0)

b. I was given an opportunity to provide input:

Strongly agree (4)

Agree (1)

Neither agree nor disagree (0)

Disagree (0)

Strongly disagree (0)

6. How did you find out about tonight's meeting?

- Word of mouth (1)
- Flier (3)
- Web site (1)
- E-mail (3)